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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 19 May 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the attached declaration of the Council of Ministers of the Western European Union (WEU) which met in Lisbon on 15 May 1995 under the presidency of Portugal and with the presence of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and of Defence of the 27 members, observers, associated members and associated partners of WEU.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 60 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Pedro CATARINO
Permanent Representative

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Annex

LISBON DECLARATION

1. Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Western European Union (WEU) nations gathered in Lisbon on 15 May 1995. They warmly welcomed the accession of Greece to WEU as a full member and the consequent entry into force of the associate member's status and the associate partner's status, as well as the fact that Austria, Finland and Sweden became observers following their accession to the European Union (EU).

2. Ministers recalled that the construction of an integrated Europe will remain incomplete as long as it does not include security and defence. They also recalled the role of WEU as the defence component of EU and as a means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance and the priority which they therefore attached to the development of its operational capabilities. They recalled that, in the Petersberg declaration, preparedness was expressed to deploy WEU military units for humanitarian and rescue tasks, peace-keeping tasks and tasks of combat forces in crisis management. They reaffirmed their resolve to work, on the basis of the preliminary conclusions adopted in Noordwijk on the formulation of a common European defence policy, to ensure that this policy can effectively take shape in the years ahead. Ministers expressed their appreciation of the significant progress made by WEU since their last meeting and discussed in particular the following issues:

I. WEU DEVELOPMENT

A. Operational development

3. Ministers examined the implementation of their previous decisions, in particular those taken at their Petersberg, Kirchberg and Noordwijk meetings, regarding the development of WEU operational capabilities. They approved a decision which, inter alia:

(a) Provides WEU with new decision-making mechanisms and structures, in particular the establishment of a new politico-military group in support of the Council, a Situation Centre and an Intelligence Section in the Planning Cell;

(b) Refines procedures and objectives for the identification of forces answerable to WEU;

(c) Provides WEU with preliminary conclusions and transitional arrangements for the financing of WEU operations.

Ministers underlined the need to gain practical experience of the provisions contained in this decision through appropriate exercises. In this context, they welcomed the intentions expressed by Portugal to organize an exercise. They also welcomed the agreement reached by the States members of the EUROCORPS to carry out the exercise "WEU CRISIS 95-96", within the framework of the Petersberg declaration, and took note of the decision to propose this

exercise to the Council in order to verify the procedures established in the relevant operational documents of the organization.

Ministers welcomed the progress made in WEU in identifying those assets and capabilities that WEU will need in its future operations, as well as in defining its views on the mechanisms and procedures for the use of such assets and capabilities which the Alliance could make available to WEU.

4. Ministers welcomed the presentation of a report of the Secretary-General on the reinforcement of the secretariat in the politico-military field, which will constitute the basis for decisions to be taken by the Permanent Council before the next Ministerial Council, allowing for the reinforcement to begin by January 1996.

5. Ministers welcomed the decision of France, Italy and Spain to organize a land force (EUROFOR) and a maritime force (EUROMARFOR). They noted that these forces will be open to WEU member States. In this context, they welcomed the agreement reached on the participation of Portugal in EUROFOR and EUROMARFOR since their establishment. They also noted that these forces would be declared "forces answerable to WEU", that they would be employed as a priority in this framework, that they could likewise be employed in the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), so as to strengthen the European pillar of the Alliance, and that the fulfilment of their missions will not prejudice the participation of their units in the common defence missions provided for by article V of the Modified Brussels Treaty and article 5 of the Washington Treaty. Ministers believe that these initiatives will contribute to the development of the European Security and Defence Identity and strengthen Europe's own military capabilities for operations conducted pursuant to the Petersberg declaration.

Ministers tasked the Permanent Council, on the initiative of the participating States, to detail the relations between WEU and these forces, together with the conditions for their use in the WEU framework.

6. As a follow-up to the decision taken at their last meeting in Noordwijk, Ministers endorsed a document on "Emergency responses to humanitarian crises: a role for a WEU humanitarian task force". The document, based on an Italian/United Kingdom proposal on the principles and modalities for establishing a WEU humanitarian task force and on the use of military assets in humanitarian crises, is fully consistent with the above decision in paragraph 3. They tasked the Permanent Council to complete the work on this subject as a matter of priority and requested the Planning Cell to take forward as a matter of urgency its generic planning in this area.

7. Ministers also marked their interest in the initiative by France and the United Kingdom on peace-keeping and conflict prevention in Africa. In this connection, they welcomed the preliminary reflections taking place in WEU in parallel with the discussions within the European Union and against the background of the debate in progress at the United Nations; they instructed the Permanent Council to take forward its reflections on this subject.

8. Ministers also examined progress made in the field of WEU space activities. They approved a decision on the establishment of the Satellite Centre as a permanent WEU body. They also approved a decision tasking the Space Group to continue its activities, concentrating on the study of the three proposed approaches to developing WEU's capability to use satellite imagery for security purposes, namely the establishment of a WEU satellite system, participation in developing a multinational programme on procurement of imagery with the aim of presenting a proposal to their autumn 1995 ministerial meeting.

9. Ministers took note of the report by the presidency on the Chiefs of Defence Staff meeting held on 20 April 1995 in Lisbon.

10. Ministers took note of documents on "WEU's role in evacuation operations", "Generic planning", and "Intelligence support to the Planning Cell: short-term measures". They considered these documents as a significant contribution to the implementation of their decisions on the development of WEU operational capabilities.

11. They looked forward to the conclusion of the work on other operational aspects identified in the "Preliminary conclusions on the formulation of a common European defence policy", approved in Noordwijk.

12. Ministers took note with appreciation of the reports on the Portuguese presidency's missions to Mostar and the Danube and welcomed the recent visit to Mostar of the presidency's Foreign Minister, Mr. Durão Barroso. They also noted with great interest the information provided to the Council by the EU Administrator for Mostar, Mr. Koschnick.

13. Ministers reiterated the importance they attach to the WEU contribution to the EU Mostar Administration, and to the Danube and SHARP GUARD operations, which are visible expressions of WEU's commitment to European security. They expressed their appreciation and gratitude to all those participating in these operations and thus contributing to their success.

14. Ministers welcomed the agreement between the parties concerned on the implementation of the first phase of the establishment of a Unified Police Force of Mostar (UPFM) and regarding the structure of the future UPFM. They believe that these important steps should lead to the implementation of the UPFM. Ministers agreed to continue to encourage the parties, in particular via the presidency, to secure agreement to the subsequent implementation phases and the establishment of the UPFM. Ministers welcomed the forthcoming participation of Austria, Finland and Sweden in the WEU police element, in addition to the contributions provided by the member States.

15. Ministers welcomed the successful results accomplished by the WEU police and customs mission on the Danube, which contribute to the full implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

16. They also expressed their satisfaction at the continued positive results achieved in the joint WEU-NATO Operation SHARP GUARD in the Adriatic.

B. Common reflection on new European security conditions

17. Ministers welcomed progress achieved on the common reflection on the new European security conditions. They emphasized the importance of the fact that, for the first time, such an exercise is taking place among the 27 WEU nations. They approved a document which identifies their common interests, as well as potential risks to European security. This analysis will be further reviewed in the light of the second phase of the exercise.

18. Ministers noted that, in the second phase, WEU countries will examine how to enhance and strengthen their common security through possible responses to the potential risks already identified. They asked the Permanent Council to submit at their next meeting the final results of the exercise along the lines of paragraph 6 of the Noordwijk declaration with a view to a decision on the publication of a "White Paper" on European security.

19. Ministers welcomed the French initiative concerning the organization in autumn 1995 of a European session to reflect on a European security policy, which will bring together representatives of the 27 WEU nations.

C. Other questions

20. Ministers welcomed the Permanent Council decision on the implementation of the associate partner's status, which will allow for the extension of their participation in WEU working groups, for the conclusion of liaison arrangements between them and the Planning Cell, as well as for the identification of their forces which may be made available for WEU operations. They welcomed the progress already achieved on the identification of forces and looked forward to the full and rapid implementation of the above-mentioned measures.

21. Ministers underlined the importance they attach to the role played by the Assembly in the debate on security and defence in Europe and its substantive contribution to the wider consideration of these issues. They welcomed the regular and constructive dialogue between the Council and the Assembly.

22. Ministers welcomed the Permanent Council decision on the gradual transformation of the Institute for Security Studies into an Academy.

23. Ministers welcomed the signature of the WEU security agreement on 28 March 1995.

II. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

24. Ministers had an exchange of views on the relations between WEU and the European Union. They stressed the importance of developing further this relationship for the future of the two organizations and for European security as a whole.

25. Ministers recalled their decision in Noordwijk last November that WEU should make a timely contribution to the work of the 1996 EU Intergovernmental

Conference. Ministers held a first exchange of views on this contribution, which will re-examine and further develop the role of WEU and the provisions agreed at Maastricht, taking account of the progress made and experience acquired since the WEU Maastricht declaration of December 1991 and the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union.

26. Ministers tasked the Permanent Council to present a report at their next meeting in November in Madrid. In this respect, they welcomed the intention of the incoming Spanish presidency to present a reflection document on the WEU contribution to the Intergovernmental Conference to serve as the basis of the Permanent Council's report. They noted that the possibility of holding a meeting at summit level to finalize the WEU contribution to the Intergovernmental Conference continues to be considered.

27. In this context, Ministers welcomed as significant contributions to the forthcoming debate the presentation of the proposals made by the British Prime Minister, of the Netherlands Government memorandum and of other national positions. These, together with the ongoing work in the European Union started under the French presidency, would be important inputs to this debate.

28. Ministers welcomed the initiative of the Portuguese presidency to organize a seminar in Sintra on 3 and 4 June on the WEU contribution to the future European security and defence architecture.

29. Ministers noted with satisfaction that measures to develop a close working relationship between WEU and EU, foreseen in the Treaty on European Union, were now being given practical effect. They particularly welcomed the close cooperation between the EU and WEU presidencies regarding the EU Administration in Mostar including the WEU police deployment, the first occasion when WEU, in carrying out an operation, is implementing a decision of the Union. In this context they also welcomed the fact that, for the first time, the WEU and EU presidencies had carried out a joint <u>démarche</u> which contributed to the successful agreement to the first phase of UPFM.

30. Ministers noted with appreciation cooperation between WEU and EU in the framework of the informal group of government experts of WEU/Western European Armaments Group and EU member States to study options for a European armaments policy. They noted that all items of the agreed programme of work have already been covered. They looked forward to the report being finalized shortly.

31. Ministers welcomed the first meeting of the WEU presidency, the Secretariat and the Planning Cell with the EU Troika of Consular Affairs' experts on WEU's role in evacuation operations. They tasked the Permanent Council to ensure that the work on this subject is continued in close coordination with the relevant EU bodies.

III. RELATIONS WITH NATO

32. Ministers welcomed the decisions taken recently by both the WEU Council and the North Atlantic Council regarding the cooperation between both organizations and noted with appreciation that they are already under implementation. These

decisions represented a further step in the development of working links between WEU and the Alliance, including joint councils and cooperation between secretariats.

33. Ministers stressed the importance, for future cooperation between WEU and NATO, of the progress made in WEU in identifying those assets and capabilities that WEU will need in its future operations, as well as in defining its views on the mechanisms and procedures for the use of assets and capabilities which the Alliance could make available to WEU. They stressed the importance of NATO comments for pursuing joint work in this field. They also invite NATO to work with WEU to develop a list of assets and capabilities that could be made available. Ministers recalled the importance they attach to WEU having an effective intelligence handling facility and to the conclusion of the discussions in this field with NATO.

34. Ministers welcomed the continuing cooperation and the institutional dialogue between WEU and NATO to develop further the CJTF concept, including joint meetings of the WEU Politico-Military Working Group and NATO's Provisional Policy Coordination Group and attendance of the Planning Cell and cross-representation of secretariats in the meetings of those groups.

35. These are all significant developments which illustrate the new level of mutually reinforcing cooperation reached in WEU-NATO relations.

IV. TRANSATLANTIC PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES

36. Ministers took note of the report on transatlantic publicity activities and approved the recommendations on measures to increase the effectiveness of transatlantic publicity activities and on the message that transatlantic publicity events should seek to convey. They looked forward to the forthcoming Washington Conference under the United Kingdom chairmanship of the transatlantic publicity activities.

V. RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

37. Ministers reiterated the particular importance of appropriate relationships with the Russian Federation and Ukraine. They welcomed the Permanent Council decision on the framing of the dialogue with these two countries. Contacts with the Russian Federation and Ukraine, in the framework of this decision, while not duplicating dialogue in other forums, will allow for the development of the existing dialogue with WEU and for exchanges of information on issues of common interest.

38. Ministers took note with appreciation of the report by the Mediterranean Group on its activities, following a new round of consultations in April with Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. They endorsed its recommendations for the future and in particular the review of its mandate. They expressed the wish that the subjects identified by the Permanent Council for the continuation of this dialogue will allow its further enhancement.

39. Ministers welcomed the Permanent Council's decision to enter into a dialogue with Cyprus* and Malta, which would evolve in line with the development of links between Cyprus and Malta and the European Union.

VI. RELATIONS WITH THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE AND THE PACT ON STABILITY IN EUROPE

40. Ministers stressed the importance they attach to the place of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the European security architecture and noted in particular its potential as a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management, as well as in promoting the rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights. Ministers welcomed the progress achieved at the Budapest summit in strengthening OSCE as a comprehensive security structure based on shared values and reiterated their support in particular for the intensification of OSCE action in relation to the Nagorny-Karabakh conflict decided by the Budapest summit.

41. Ministers welcomed the conclusion in Paris, on 20 April 1995, of the Pact on Stability in Europe and stressed its potential for peace and stability in Europe.

VII. SITUATION IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

42. Ministers discussed the situation in the former Yugoslavia and approved the declaration annexed hereto.

VIII. OTHER QUESTIONS

43. Ministers welcomed the decision, taken in New York on 11 May 1995, to extend the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for an indefinite period. This decision undoubtedly reinforces international security and therefore represents a success for the international community as a whole. Not only does it assure the permanence of the Treaty, but it also strengthens the international standard for non-proliferation. It creates a better chance of securing the accession of those States that have not yet joined, so that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons can become universal. Ministers stressed that the European Union and its member States as well as the other WEU nations, for which the extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was a priority objective, have, together with many other States, greatly contributed to this success.

44. Ministers underlined the importance of an early deposit of all the instruments of ratification of the Open Skies Treaty, which will allow for the

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* Turkey dissociates itself from this decision.

entry into force of the Treaty. In this context, Ministers noted the démarches carried out by the presidency and expressed the hope that the remaining difficulties experienced by the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus will be overcome in the near future.

45. They expressed their appreciation for the achievements of the Institute under the authority of its Director, Mr. John Roper. They welcomed the appointment of Mr. Guido Lenzi as the new Director of the Institute. Ministers paid tribute to the achievements of the Planning Cell under the authority of its Director, Lt. Gen. Marcello Caltabiano, and welcomed the appointment of Vice-Admiral Rafael De Morales, as his successor.

Appendix

DECLARATION ON FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

1. Ministers expressed their deep concern at the recent developments with respect to the former Yugoslavia, which present growing risks to the region.

2. Ministers expressed profound concern over the escalation of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They also condemned attacks on United Nations safe areas and on United Nations personnel, which cannot be tolerated. They expressed their full support for the efforts pursued by the United Nations in order to renew the agreement on cessation of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina reached on 1 January 1995, and appealed to the parties to accept such a renewal without any further delay.

3. Ministers expressed their undivided support for the continued international efforts by the European Union, the United States and the Russian Federation, namely for those of the Contact Group, including its peace plan, aiming at a political solution to the conflict. They reiterated deep concern at the continued refusal of the Bosnian Serbs to accept that initiative. They deplored the continuing hostilities resulting from this situation. They underlined the need for renewed urgent efforts towards a lasting peace settlement.

4. Ministers addressed the issue of mutual recognition between all States of the former Yugoslavia within their internationally recognized borders, and consider that such a move would constitute a very positive step towards a global political solution. They recalled the important decision taken by Belgrade to support the peace plan and to close the border with Bosnia, and reaffirmed the need for further effective pressure on the Bosnian Serbs.

5. Ministers reiterated that lifting the arms embargo would entail a further escalation of the conflict, increase the sufferings of the civilian population, pose grave risks to international organizations in the field, and could lead to the withdrawal of United Nations forces.*

6. Ministers considered that full implementation of the Washington agreements establishing the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and other commitments entered into by the parties, is an essential factor in an overall political settlement based on the principle of balanced treatment for all the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this context, Ministers re-emphasized the crucial importance of the efforts to arrive at a single administration of Mostar, including a unified police force. They appealed to the parties for their active cooperation to reach the objectives laid out in the memorandum of understanding concerning the European Union Administration of the city.

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* Turkey dissociates itself from this paragraph.

7. Ministers discussed the situation in Croatia and expressed their profound preoccupation at the renewal of hostilities, and in particular the actions affecting civilian populations. They condemned the action taken by Croatia in violation of the cease-fire agreement of 29 March 1994, which endangers the efforts being pursued under the aegis of the international community to promote a peaceful solution for the Krajinas, and which took place at the time when the new United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia is being deployed. They fully supported the presidential statement of the United Nations Security Council demanding that the Croatian forces withdraw immediately from the zone of separation in Sectors North and South and that both the Croatian and Serbian sides should withdraw from Sector East and they demanded the immediate restoration of United Nations authority in the zones concerned. Ministers condemned Serb retaliation against urban centres in Croatia, particularly Zagreb, and the detention of United Nations personnel. They reiterated their commitment to promoting a political solution that preserves Croatian sovereignty over its entire territory, within its internationally recognized borders, and fully respecting the rights of the Serb community in conformity with internationally recognized standards.

8. Ministers called on the parties to show the utmost restraint and to avoid any initiative which would entail a new escalation of the conflict. They expressed their support for the efforts of UNCRO and the European Community Monitoring Mission aimed at facilitating the implementation of the cease-fire agreement and assisting the re-establishment of normal life in Sector West and called on the parties to allow for freedom of movement of the United Nations forces in performing their mission. Ministers invited the parties to enter, without any further delay, into political negotiations under the aegis of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

9. Ministers expressed their appreciation for the activities carried out by NATO in the former Yugoslavia pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolutions, including in support of United Nations forces.